Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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SUBJECT: TURKISH PRESS REACTION ON FORD-DEMIREL MEETING IN

BRUSSELS

REF: USIA 12095

1. ALL MAJOR TURKISH DAILIES MAY 30 PROMINENTLY REPORTED THE MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND TURKISH PM DEMIREL AND GAVE HIGHLIGHTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH GREEK PM CARAMANLIS.

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2. HEADLINES INCLUDED FOLLOWING: "DEMIREL TOLD FORD NOT TO

INTERFERE WITH TURKISH-GREEK NEGOTIATIONS - UNITED STATES AGREED TO PROTECT GREECE IN RETURN FOR BASES IN GREECE -FORD AND KISSINGER REITERATED OLD SCENARIO. THERE IS NOTHING LEFT FOR TURKEY BUT TO CLOSE DOWN AMERICAN BASES" - HURRIYET (MASS CIRCULATION, POPULAR); "DEMIREL, TERMING THE EMBARGO AS PRESSURE, TOLD FORD THAT AMERICA HAS LOST ITS CHARACTER OF BEING RELIABLE. FORD...TOLD CARAMANLIS THAT HE WAS A WAITER IN A GREEK RESTAURANT" - IN GUNAYDIN (MASS CIRCULATION, POPULAR): "DEMIREL MET WIH FORD, WILL TALK WITH CARAMANLIS TOMORROW" - IN TERCUMAN (CONSERVATIVE); "DEMIREL-FORD MEETING NOT NEGOTIATION BUT SIMPLY A TALK - DEMIREL SAID, 'WE SHARE THE SAME VIEW WITH FORD ABOUT THE HARM OF THE EMBARGO' - BARGAINING FOR PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT STARTED IN BRUSSELS. TURKEY WISHES TO BUY YF-16 AMERICAN PLANES" - IN CUMHURIYET (MODERATE LEFT); "DEMIREL: 'WE AGREE WITH FORD ON THE EMBARGO'S HARM'" - IN MILLIYET (LIBERAL).

3. MILLIYET CORRESPONDENTS SAMI KOHEN

AND MEHMEAALI BIRAND REPORTING FROM BRUSSELS WROTE THAT THE DEMIREL-FORD MEETING WAS A TALK, NOT NEGOTIATIONS, AND THAT NOTHING NEW WAS ADDED, THAT THERE WAS ONLY REPETITION OF WHAT HAD ALREADY BEEN SAID. WHILE CARAMANLIS REPORTEDLY TRIED TO GET THE U.S. TO EXERT PRESSURE ON TURKEY, FORD'S TALK WITH DEMIREL WAS NOT INTERPRETED AS BEING OF THAT NATURE. IT WAS REPORTED THAT FORD SIMPLY CONVEYED CARAMANLIS' WORRIES TO DEMIREL. MILLIYET ALSO REPORTED THAT TURKEY'S HOPES HAVE RISEN THAT THE EMBARGO WILL BE LIFTED AND MAY BE WILLING TO WAIT A FEW MORE WEEKS FOR THE OUTCOME.

4. CUNEYT ARCAYUREK, WRITING FROM BRUSSLES FOR HURRIYET, REPORTED ON THE DEMIREL-FORD MEETING AT LENGTH, INCLUDING EXTENSIVE QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO BOTH WHICH TOUCHED ON THE SUBJECTS OF GREEK-TURKISH TENSIONS AND WEAKENING OF THE ALLIANCE. HE ALSO REPORTED THAT DEMIREL TRIED TO GUIDE THE CONVERSATION ALONG LINES OF TURKISH-AMERICAN RELATIONS AND THE ARMS EMBARGO RATHER THAN DISCUSSING CYPRUS. PRESIDENT FORD WAS REPORTED TO HAVE ASSURED DEMIREL THAT THE UNITED STATES WOULD NEVER SACRIFICE A FRIENDLY COUNTRY LIKE TURKEY AND THAT HE WOULD TRY TO HAVE CONGRESS REACH A FAVORABLE DECIUNCLASSIFIED

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SION, AND IF THERE WAS NOT A FAVORABLE BALANCE IN JULY, THEN HE DEBATES COULD BE DELAYED FURTHER. DEMIREL WAS REPORTED TO HAVE RESPONDED TO THIS SAYING, "IF A SOLUTION IS NOT FOUND TO THE EMBARGO QUESTION IN TURKISH-US RELATIONS IN THE NEAR FUTURE, I FEAR THAT WE WILL REACH A POINT MUCH GRAVER THAN TODAY'S. TURKEY NO LONGER HAS THE PATIENCE TO WAIT." DEMIREL ALSO REPORTEDLY ADVISED THE UNITED STATES NOT TO INTERFERE IN GRECO-TURKISH CONFLICTS, WHICH WOULD

HAVE TO BE SOLVED BY THE TWO COUNTRIES THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS. ARCAYUREK ALSO REPORTED THE BRIEFING GIVEN BY ASST. SECSTATE HARTMAN AFTER THE FORD BILATERALS.

- 5. METIN TOKER IN HURRIYET AND UGUR REYHAN IN TERCUMAN DESCRIBED THE OUTCOME OF THE DEMIREL-FORD TALKS AS WHAT WAS EXPECTED: NOTHING NEW. TOKER COMMENTED THAT THERE WAS ONLY ONE THING LEFT FOR TURKEY TO DO: "CLOSE DOWN ALL AMERICAN BASES WITHOUT WASTING ANY MORE TIME." REYHAN REPORTED THAT DEMIREL SAID TO FORD, "OUR DECISION ABOUT THE BILATERAL AGREEMENTS AND THE AMERICAN BASES IN TURKEY WILL BE UNILATERAL JUST LIKE YOUR ARMS EMBARBO AGAINST US."
- 6. ANOTHER HURRIYET CORRESPONDENT, SERIF SAYIN, REPORTED FROM BRUSSELS THAT CARAMANLIS CONVINCED FORD THAT THE UNITED STATES MUST PROTECT GREECE AGAINST TURKEY. IN RETURN, GREECE REPORTEDLY WILL GIVE THE UNITED STATES NEW STRATEGIC BASES WHEREVER THE US WANTS AND PARTICULARLY ON THE ISLANDS. IT IS REPORTED THAT GREECE MAY ALSO RETURN TO NATO'S MILITARY WING. SAYING REPORTED THAT THE PRESIDENT REVIEWED POSITIVELY THE "GREEK-AMERICAN NON-AGGGRESSION PACT" DRAWN UP BY HE GREEK GENERAL STAFF.

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